

Message Text

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17

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

INFO AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

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FOR SANDBERG

FOLLOWING REPEAT MASERU 97 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO GABORONE
AND MBABANE DATED 30 JANUARY 1975:

QTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MASERU 97

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, EAID, LT

SUBJECT: STUDENT UNREST AT UNIVERSITY

1. STUDENTS AT ROMA UBLS CAMPUS DEMONSTRATED AGAINST
UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION JAN 27 AND ARE NOW ON STRIKE.
STUDENTS, CHARGING THEY ARE BEING UNDERDEVELOPED RATHER THAN
DEVELOPED, PRESENTED LIST OF GRIEVANCES LARGEMLY ABOUT STAFF
PROBLEMS, PROTESTING DEPARTURE OF TWO AFRICAN FACULTY MEMBERS
AND DEMANDING IMMEDIATE TERMINATION OF BRITISH MATHEMATICS
LECTURER.

2. VICE CHANCELLOR ROGERS MET STUDENTS AND TOLD THEM THEIR
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COMPLAINTS WOULD BE TAKEN UP IN APPROPRIATE WAY. STUDENTS

THEREAFTER MET TO CONSIDER WHAT TO DO IF THEIR DEMANDS NOT PROMPTLY ACTED UPON AND DECISION TO STRIKE IS EVIDENT OUTCOME. ROGERS HAS BEEN REINFORCED BY OFFICIALS FROM BOTSWANA AND SWAZILAND AND LATEST REPORT IS THAT ROGERS MET WITH PRIME MINISTER JONATHAN MORNING JAN 29 TO DISCUSS UBL'S SITUATION.

3. LOCAL RADIO REPORTS HAVE IT THAT STUDENTS UPSET THAT ONE OF AFRICAN FACULTY MEMBERS FIRED. THIS PERSON NOT KNOWN TO US BUT OTHER RECENTLY-DEPARTED FACULTY MEMBER IS SOUTH AFRICAN SELBOURNE NGCOBO WHO RECENTLY LEFT FOR SIX-MONTH WORLD BANK CONSULTANCY IN WASHINGTON. BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER INFORMS US THAT MATHEMATICS LECTURER FAVORABLY KNOWN TO HIM AND HE THINKS STUDENTS MAY HAVE TURNED AGAINST HIM BECAUSE HE DEMANDS A HIGH STANDARD.

4. STUDENT RESTLESSNESS ALSO EVIDENT FROM ROUGH TREATMENT GIVEN JUSTICE MINISTER C. NCFHZUZZ WHEN HE ADDRESSED STUDENTS ON POLITICAL RECONCILIATION AT ROMA EVENING OF JAN 24. MOLAPO WAS DROWNED OUT BY SHOUTING WHEN HE TOLD STUDENTS THAT PRESENT GOVERNMENT'S THEFT OF 1970 ELECTIONS SHOULD BE FORGOTTEN. HAUGHT UNQTE KISSINGER

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